

**Testimony of Michael W. Allen
On
Senate Bill 122
Sponsored by
Senator Sam Kitzenberg**

**House Transportation Committee
Monday, March 26, 2006**

Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen of the committee, for the record, my name is Michael W. Allen and I am a consultant and an advisor to the ethanol industry. In my previous life, I was a petroleum marketer, jobber and convenience store owner for 25 years. I now work with the American Coalition for Ethanol – the largest membership based ethanol non-profit trade association in America – and other ethanol groups to promote and educate about the use of ethanol across America.

I stand before you in support of Senator Kitzenberg's SB 122 and urge your support.

As the nation around us grows and advances the use of alternative fuels, Montana sits idly by. As ethanol production grows in all the states around us – even in states that don't grow corn – Montana continues to have NO ethanol production and very limited ethanol use.

Why is this?

This state needs to wake up to the fact that ethanol and other renewable fuels are here to stay. They are not going to be going away. We, as a State, need to support the renewable fuels industry and begin to promote it and do all that we can to develop an industry in Montana that embraces and encourages the use of all alternative fuels.

People have talked about the chicken and the egg. Well, let's solve that age old question here today and offer up a solution. We talk about how we all want more good, clean industry here in Montana.

Industries that hire Montana graduates and adds value to our local economies. Well, let's do something about it as a State. Let's build an industry that uses Montana grains and Montana graduates. An industry that is clean and adds value to our communities and has been proven safe hundreds of times over in other states. This piece of legislation can help develop that industry.

I continue to hear the horror stories on the streets, in the coffee shops and at the restaurants of how bad ethanol is and how it doesn't work. I hear of how bio-diesel and ethanol is taking our nations food and turning it into fuel. These are statements based on uneducated hearsay. This board is needed to answer those questions, to deliver the information and to bring forward to all Montana's the truth about renewable fuels.

This piece of legislation is not the cure all or the total answer....but it is a great first step! Once this board is established and begins its work, it will need to have the ethanol and bio-diesel producers step up to the plate and help with some private business partnerships. But, this legislation will get the ball moving and show the nation and the people of Montana, that Montana is serious about renewable fuels and are serious about making sure that the citizens of Montana understand those same fuels and will use them.

I am available for questions and I urge your support for SB

122.